

**AGENDA ITEM:** Resource Libraries Program Development

**GENERAL PROGRAM UPDATE:**

Since the November 2001 Board meeting, there has been no activity specifically related to the development of this program area. Development is ongoing in program areas of specific concern to potential resource libraries, and their involvement is being considered and encouraged in each specific program.

A small representative group from the Major Resource Libraries Group met in Sacramento on October 15 2001, to begin to outline potential structures and contexts for a resource libraries program. A number of issues of interest were identified as providing opportunities for sharing as well as for benefits to be realized by Resource Libraries in California. Communication, so vital to sharing and cooperation, is a prime issue. By creating opportunities for communicating, the Resource Libraries can effectively participate in the development of both the Resource Libraries and the statewide reference programs. Other issues identified include collaborative database purchase and database price negotiation; enriched content on the Library of California web site; standards for collecting and compiling information on special resources; and preservation, both “last copy” storage and disaster recovery. Over-arching considerations identified are keeping activities simple and pragmatic; demonstrating accomplishment through a modest but meaningful agenda; looking for simple ways to share and to cooperate. And of course using various methods to facilitate communication among resource libraries.

**NEXT STEPS:**

Staff will study issues brought forward and respond to the Resource Libraries steering group when reports are ready to review.

Possible pilot projects will be considered for testing through the LSTA process.

**RELATED ISSUES TO COME BEFORE THE BOARD IN THE FUTURE:**

1. Update on development of the Resource Libraries component, including the development of possible pilots for testing elements of this program.
2. Consideration of models and pilots for funding the Resource Libraries program components.

Relevant Committee: Access Services  
Staff Liaison: Diana Paque